

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
October 22, 2024

Indiana Corn Marketing Council and Indiana Soybean Alliance
8425 Keystone Crossing, Indianapolis IN 46240
MS Teams

- I. 9:31 am: Call to Order by Gene Schmidt, chair
- II. Approval of Minutes 9-10-24 – motion to approve by Brad Dawson/Amy Burris, motion carried.
- III. CWI
 - a. 2025 CWI recommendations – 26 applications received requesting \$2,297,352. Committee recommends 17 applications to be approved with funds recommended at \$1,382,571. (See handout for listing of recommended grants.)

Motion to approve recommendation of the CWI grant committee by Brad Dawson, second by Kenny Cain, Ray Chattin abstains due to conflict of interest. Motion carried.

With remaining funds (\$917,429) from competitive grants, recommendation was made that \$500,000 go towards CREP since it went statewide and will need additional funding, as well as a possible position added to be a dedicated CWI grant program manager.

Question was asked why the overall ask this year was half from last year. Comment from Teams chat from Julie Good: “The grant deadline overlapped with IDEM 319, plus it is due immediately after Labor Day so comments from collaborators was difficult. Another perspective: The priorities for our work - when small personnel capacity - can be limited. The point of overlapping with the 319 is that finding more topics that are non-overlapping can be daunting. Hearing the results of one grant application prior to the due date of another grant would be immensely helpful.” Director Thum will work on a job description and present it at the January SSCB board meeting. After more discussion, an executive session will be held to expand the discussion to strategically utilize the remaining funds.

- b. CWI audit report – 9 grants were reviewed, some issues with CPT and reports but nothing major on 8 out of the 9 reviews. Some reviews found that spending was a little behind but with some marketing ideas, looks to be back on track. Comments came back positively for CWI.
- IV. SSCB business
 - a. Chairman’s report – Gene will be attending IDEA Fall Conference representing the SSCB. Gene requested from each board member what message to relay to conference attendees. Wants districts to know that the board and/or ISDA is not changing rules or processes, but emphasizing Indiana Code and the rules each district must follow, i.e. Election committee process.
 - b. Director’s report – Thum stated that a full report was placed in their packets. Fulton Co SWCD audit update 2024 grant will be returned and 2023 grant unused funds will also be returned. CWI policy manual is being worked on to have one location for policies and other manual documents pertaining to CWI in one location. This document will be completed in 2025.
- V. Public Comment - none
- VI. Presentation – DNR Josh Griffin Farm Bill Coordinator – DNR Efforts to Combat Invasive Species.
- VII. SWCD’s
 - a. Temporary Appointments motion to approve by Kenny Cain, seconded by Jewel Wise. Motion Carried.
 - i. Blackford Co – Jessica Tabor
 - ii. Lawrence Co – Ethan Gassman
- VIII. ICP Reports
 - a. ISDA
 - i. Kankakee RCPP – land management to be started in 2025. Western Lake Eerie Basin – sign-ups for projects open.
 - ii. CREP expansion agreement is signed and had signing ceremony September 18th. Without Farm Bill cannot sign up new contracts. (see written report for more details)
 - iii. Nutrient Stewardship – see written report
 - iv. Technical Assistance – Heath - see written report
 - v. DSS’s - see written report
 - b. IASWCD – district showcases – Hamilton County, Elkhart County, Clark County, and Pike County. Written report has details for each showcase.
 - i. Urban Soil Health – Hiring for the replacement of NW USH position. See written report for more information.
 - ii. RITA – see written report. Introduced two new staff.

- c. CCSI – Lisa (online) – see written report.
 - d. Purdue – Walt Sell (online) – Urban Soil Health Specialist has been hired in the Indianapolis area. Soil Fertility position is open and looking for candidates. Watershed Leadership Academy registration deadline is November 1st. American Citizen Planner – online course from August – November 2024. Purdue ID that Tree is a YouTube video series of identification of Indiana trees.
 - e. NRCS – written report
 - f. FSA – Jared Thomas (online) – emphasized CREP expansion. Written report. Gave demonstration on new CREP online tool.
- IX. Public Comment – none
 - X. Next meeting – January 14 – Location TBD. Additional meeting to be scheduled in November 2024.
 - XI. Adjourn: 12:30 by Cain/Hardesty.

Attendance

In Person

Gene Schmidt (Board chair)
 Jane Hardisty (Board vice-chair)
 Ray Chattin (Board member)
 Jewel Wise (Board member)
 Kenny Cain (Board member)
 Amy Burris (Board member)
 Brad Dawson (Board member)
 Jennifer Thum
 Breegan Anderson
 Kylie Wheeler
 Katie Nelson
 Sandra Hoffarth
 Geneva Tyler
 Laura Fribley
 Nathan Stoelting
 Tara Wesseler-Henry
 Heath Hurst
 Julie Harrold
 Josh Griffin
 Liz Ric
 Amy Work
 Les Zimmerman

Elli Blaine
 Ophelia Davis
 Meg Leader
 RITA staff x 2
Via MS Teams
 Jared Thomas
 Rebecca McClellan
 Lindsey Bluhm
 Amanda Robbins
 Cora Brown
 Mary Lou Watson
 Kristin Miller
 Michelle Elgin
 Bradley Dawson
 Stephanie Baker
 Virginia Morris
 Leah Harmon
 John Hazlett
 Kathleen Hagan
 Walt Sell
 Maria Fisher
 Brandi Frazier

Courtney McFall
 Andrea Gogel
 Nevada Wagers
 Tina Boerner
 Holden Abrell
 Raquel Baker
 Emily Russell
 Cress Hizer
 Lisa Holscher
 Tami Kruer
 Darlen Fischer
 Julie Good
 Quinton Hayes
 Colson Doyle
 Conner McCarthy
 Allison McKain
 Megan
 Mike Johnson
 Walt Sell
 Kate Sanders
 Jaime Perry